



Asian Gypsy Moth Section

Overview

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Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) Background

The Asian gypsy moth (AGM) is a strain of the gypsy moth, *Lymantria dispar*, found in Asia which has some, if not all, of the following characteristics:

- ◆ Females capable of strong, directed flight
- ◆ Faster rate of development
- ◆ Reduced chill requirement before egg hatch
- ◆ Broader host range
- ◆ Tendency to oviposit near light sources

The AGM will probably successfully establish because of its broader host range; in addition, defoliation may increase as AGM or its hybrids exploit hosts of marginal value to the European gypsy moth currently in North America.

Because the AGM females are capable of strong, directed flight, there would be increased population mobility and an increased rate of natural spread.

Because AGM females tend to oviposit near light sources, the “nuisance” factor of the gypsy moth would increase.

Asian Gypsy Moth Policy

APHIS has adopted the following policy on the AGM:

- ◆ If the AGM is introduced, APHIS will seek to eradicate the infestation.
- ◆ APHIS will exclude the AGM by lowering the risks at the points-of-origins and at the points-of-arrival.

- ◆ APHIS will monitor ports and other high-risk sites to immediately detect introductions. (?)
- ◆ APHIS will support research using diagnostic genetic markers.

Asian Gypsy Moth Documents

Asian Gypsy Moth Emergency Program Manual

At present, the procedures to deal with the Asian Gypsy Moth are in a separate document, the *Asian Gypsy Moth Emergency Program Manual*. The *Asian Gypsy Moth Emergency Program Manual* contains information on survey, regulatory, and control procedures.

2000 Vessel Inspection Guidelines - Asian Gypsy Moth

The *2000 Vessel Inspection Guidelines - Asian Gypsy Moth* contain information on procedures for identifying high-risk vessels and procedures for handling the high-risk vessels. The *2000 Vessel Inspection Guidelines - Asian Gypsy Moth* are available at the APHIS website: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov:80/oa/agm/agmguide.html>

Asian Gypsy Moth Trapping Submission Guidelines - (Current) Field Season

The *Asian Gypsy Moth Trapping Submission Guidelines - (Current) Field Season* contains information on procedures for submitting possible AGM specimens. The possible AGM specimens will undergo analysis by genetic markers. Information on obtaining supplies for submitting specimens is also available. The *Asian Gypsy Moth Submission Guidelines - (Current) Field Season* are available at the APHIS website: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/AGM/AGM2000.HTM>
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov:80/oa/agm/vessel.html>

Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) Vessel Alert List

The *Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) Vessel ALert List* lists vessels in Far East Russian ports during the high-risk period for infestation. Information on handling procedures are also included. The *Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) Vessel Alert List* is available at the APHIS website: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/agm/AGM2000LIST.HTM>
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/agm/vessel.html>

APHIS Factsheet - Asian Gypsy Moth

The *APHIS Factsheet - Asian Gypsy Moth* contains basic information on the AGM. The *APHIS Factsheet - Asian Gypsy Moth* is available at the APHIS website: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov:80/oa/pubs/fsgma.pdf>